GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3573
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004
BAN ON THE USE OF ANIMAL RENNET/GELATIN
Muqueem Shri Mohammed

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has banned the use and import of animal rennet and gelatin used in various food products like jelly, milk, icecream, cheese etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether several public sector units continue to import and use rennet and gelatin with out any declaration on the package of a large number of products being manufactured by Amul , Britannia , Dabur etc.; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken/ proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d) : As per ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items 2004-2009, Rennet and concentrate thereof (Exim Code 350710) is prohibited for import and therefore, is not permitted to be imported. As far as Gelatin (Exim Head 3503) is concerned, it is freely importable subject to Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Import of Gelatin, edible grade (IS: 5719) is also subject to BIS Mandatory Certification.

Whenever Gelatin is used as an ingredient, a declaration to this effect shall be made on the label by inserting the word `Gelatin - Animal Origin` under PFA Rules, 1955.

No specific information on import and use of rennet and gelatin without any declaration by public sector units has come to the notice of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.